

# **Whatcom County Council Surface Water Work Session**

**COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
311 Grand Avenue, Ste #105  
Bellingham, WA 98225-4038  
(360) 778-5010**



## **Committee Minutes - Final**

**Tuesday, September 17, 2019  
10:30 AM  
Civic Center Building Garden Room**

### **COUNCILMEMBERS**

Barbara Brenner  
Rud Browne  
Barry Buchanan  
Tyler Byrd  
Todd Donovan  
Carol Frazey  
Satpal Sidhu

### **CLERK OF THE COUNCIL**

**Call To Order**

Council Vice Chair Todd Donovan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. in the Civic Center Garden Level Conference Room, 322 Commercial Avenue, Bellingham, Washington.

**Roll Call**

**Present:** 6 - Barbara Brenner, Barry Buchanan, Tyler Byrd, Todd Donovan, Carol Frazey and Satpal Sidhu

**Absent:** 1 - Rud Browne

**Watershed Planning Update**

Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department, gave an update on a request to give recommendations for the County Executive to take to the Watershed Management Board meeting concerning the WRIA 1 Watershed Management Board's five-year work plan.

***Brenner moved*** to send the plan to the Planning Unit for review and recommendation to the Council. The motion was seconded.

The motion failed by the following vote:

**Aye:** 2 - Brenner and Byrd

**Nay:** 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu

**Absent:** 1 - Browne

***Frazey moved*** to forward a recommendation to the Executive to vote for approval of the proposed plan changes. The motion was seconded.

***Frazey withdrew*** her motion and ***moved*** to hold the item and refer it to the Council Natural Resources Committee.

The motion carried by the following vote:

**Aye:** 4 - Buchanan, Donovan, Frazey, and Sidhu

**Nay:** 0

**Abstain:** 2 - Brenner and Byrd

**Absent:** 1 - Browne

Stoyka continued his update on Watershed Planning and discussed with Councilmembers other topics being covered in the upcoming meetings of the Watershed Management Board and the Planning Unit, contracts with the Conservation District and RH2 Engineering to provide for water efficiency work and an assessment for water banking, regional water supply planning work led by the

Public Utility District (PUD), an update by the Department of Ecology (DOE) on the status of the adjudication review process funded by the State Legislature, scheduling a DOE update to the Natural Resources Committee, and a follow up study of the impacts of onsite sewage systems around Lake Whatcom.

Steve Jilk, Public Utility District (PUD) General Manager, reported on amending the PUD's Drought Contingency Plan based on comments from the Bureau of Reclamation.

### **2020-2025 Water Resources Improvement Plan**

The following staff submitted a handout, reported, and answered questions on the projects for the 2020-2025 Six-Year Water Resources Improvement Program.

Kraig Olason, Public Works Department  
Paula Harris, Public Works Department

### **Proposed 2020 Flood Control Zone District Budget**

The following staff reported and answered questions on the proposed 2020 FCZD Budget items, including each cost center in the workplan and supporting documentation:

Paula Harris, Public Works Department  
Gary Stoyka, Public Works Department

### **Proposed BBWARM Code Updates**

The following staff reported and answered questions on a proposed resolution ADOPTING CHANGES TO WCC 100.07 BIRCH BAY WATERSHED AND AQUATIC RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DISTRICT FUNDING MECHANISM, BY ADDING AN EXEMPTION FOR THE BIRCH BAY WATER AND SEWER DISTRICT:

Kraig Olason, Public Works Department  
Holly Faulstich, Public Works Department

### **Other Business - Public Comments**

Donovan asked if anyone would like to give comments and the following people spoke:

**Karlee Deatherage**, Environmental Caucus to the Planning Unit, spoke about whether funding for Planning Unit coordination is included in the Flood Control Zone District (FCZD) budget.

**Dan Eisses**, Birch Bay Water and Sewer District, stated the Five-Year Work Plan went to the Planning Unit as a group and they made comments on it at that time.

**Ellen Baker** commented on concerns of the Planning Unit about the Five-Year Work Plan and the Draught Contingency Plan.

**Carol Perry** spoke about the County being the lead agency in the process of solving water issues.

**David Onkels** spoke about Council authority in approving the Watershed Management Plan.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

The County Council approved these minutes on September 24, 2019.

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL  
WHATCOM COUNTY, WA

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Dana Brown-Davis, Council Clerk

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Todd Donovan, Council Vice Chair

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Kristi Felbinger, Minutes Transcription

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